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THE SEVERAL

DEPOSITIONS

OF

Edward Coſten, *Richard Sted-man*, *John Sweetapple*, *Mary Peytoe*, *Elizabeth Maſon*, and *Mary Coſten*;

K.

Relating to the Affair of

MARY TOFT,

Of *Godalming* in the County of *Surrey*, being deliver'd of

Several Rabbits:

As they were taken before the Right Honourable the Lord *ONSLOW*, at *Guildford* and *Clandon* in the ſaid County, on the Third and Fourth Days of this inſtant *December* 1726.

LONDON;
Printed for *J. Pemberton*, at the *Buck* in *Fleet-ſtreet*, over-againſt St. *Dunſtan*'s Church. 1727. (Price 4*d.*)

DEPOSITIONS.

The Depoſition of *Edward Coſten.*

EDward *Coſten* of *Godalming* in the County of *Surrey*, Framework-Knitter, maketh Oath, That about one Month ago *Joſhua Toſt* of

Godalming aforeſaid, Clothworker, came to this Deponent, and asked him, this Deponent, if he could ſell him any Rabbits; and that this Deponent ſold him two Rabbits of about a Month old at twice, to wit, one Day next after another, for which this Deponent had of him Three Pence each. And this Deponent further ſaith, That at the time the ſaid *Joſhua Toft* came for the laſt Rabbit that he had of this Deponent, he asked this Deponent if he had any more; and this Deponent replied, he had one dead, and that it died in the Night: and that then the ſaid *Toft* asked where it was, to which this Deponent ſaid, he had thrown it away:

away: to which the ſaid *Toſt* replied, if you had not thrown it away, it would have done as well for me as a live one.

Edward Coſten.

Jur' apud Guldeford in Com' Surr' tertio die Decembris Anno Dom' 1726. coram

Onſlow.

The

The Depoſition of *Richard Stedman.*

Richard Stedman of *Godalming* in the County of *Surrey*, Weaver, maketh Oath, That *Joſhua Toſt* of *Godalming* aforeſaid, Cloathworker came to this Deponent's Houſe, and enquired for Rabbits; to which this Deponent's Son ſaid he had ſome, but he thought them too ſmall;

ſmall ; to which the ſaid *Toſt* replied, ſmall or what they wou'd he muſt have them ; and that this Deponent's Son went and fetched two young Rabbits of about five Weeks old, and he the ſaid *Toſt* bought one of them at that time, being *Saturday*, this Day Fortnight ; and on the *Monday* then next following, he came and bought the other, and that he killed them each as ſoon as he bought them in the Preſence of this Deponent ; and at taking away the firſt, he the ſaid *Toſt* ſaid you need not let any body know it, for I don't know but I may have occaſion for the other ; and accordingly had the other for Two-Pence, be-

cauſe

cauſe it was very poor and ſmall; and this Deponent ſaith that one of the ſaid Rabbits was black, and the other grey.

Richard Stedman.

Jur' apud Guldeford in Com' Surr' tertio die Decembris Anno Dom' 1726. coram

Onſlow.

The

The Affirmation of *John Sweetapple.*

JOHN *Sweetapple* of *Godalming* in the County of *Surrey*, Currier, being one of the People commonly call'd *Quakers*, ſolemnly affirmeth, That *Joſhua Toſt* of *Godalming* aforeſaid,

ſaid, Clothworker, came to this Affirmant on the ſeventh or eighth Day of *October* laſt, and asked to buy Rabbits; and that this Affirmant then ſold him a black Rabbit, above half grown: And that the ſaid *Toft* came again to this Affirmant after his Wife was gone to *Guildford*, and asked this Affirmant if he had any Rabbits; to which he ſaid he had, but they were ſmall: to which the ſaid *Toft* ſaid, he muſt have them, be what Size they would. And this Affirmant then ſold him two Rabbits, one black, and one grey; and this Affirmant took out the Entrails of them before *Toft* took them away. And this Affirmant further

ther ſaith, That the ſaid *Toſt* told this Affirmant, that he was then going to *Guildford* with them.

John Sweetapple.

This Affirmation was taken at Guildford *in the County of* Surrey *the third day of* December, *Anno Dom'* 1726. *before*

Onſlow.

The Depoſition of *Mary Peytoe.*

MARY *Peytoe*, the Wife of *John Peytoe* of *Godalming* in the County of *Surrey*, Husbandman, maketh Oath, That *Joſhua Toft* of *Godalming* aforeſaid, Clothworker, came to this

this Deponent to buy Rabbits about five Weeks ago, and that this Deponent then ſold him one or two of about ſix or ſeven Weeks old. And that at ſeveral times in about ten Days then next, this Deponent ſold the ſaid *Toft* ſeven or eight Rabbits more of about ſix or ſeven Weeks old; and in particular, this Deponent ſold him two of the Rabbits, which he killed and paunched in this Deponent's Preſence, and ſaid he muſt carry them to *Guildford*: which ſaid two Rabbits this Deponent ſo ſold him the ſame Day that the Wife of the ſaid *Joſhua Toft* went to reſide at *Guildford*. And this Deponent ſaith, That ſhe gave him one

Rab-

Rabbit of a ſandy Colour for his Wife.

The Mark of
Mary X *Peytoe.*

Jur' apud Guldeford in Com'
Surr' tertio die Decembris
Anno Dom' 1726. *coram*

Onſlow.

The

The Depoſition of Mrs. *Maſon.*

MRS. *Maſon* maketh Oath, That whilſt *Mary Toft* lodg'd at her Houſe, which was about three Weeks, that there was no Rabbits dreſs'd at her Houſe, or carry'd to *Mary Toft* to eat; and that ſhe heard the ſaid *Mary Toft* ſay, that ſhe could not eat a Bit of a Rabbit,

bit, was ſhe to have a Thouſand Pounds for ſo doing. The Deponent further ſaith, That *Mary Toft*'s Husband had frequent Conference with his Siſter, who attended his Wife.

The Mark of
Mrs. *Eliz.* X *Maſon.*

Jur' apud Clandon in Com' Surr' quarto die Decembris Anno Dom' 1726. *coram*

Onſlow.

The

The Depoſition of *Mary Coſten.*

MARY *Coſten* of *Godalming* in the County of *Surrey*, Widow, maketh Oath, That about a Month ago ſhe was hired to *Mary Toft*, the Wife of *Joſhua Toft* of *Godalming* aforeſaid, Cloathworker, as a Nurſe, and that ſhe tended

her as ſuch till the time the ſaid *Mary Toſt* went from *Guildford* to *London*; and that the Husband of the ſaid *Mary Toſt* came often to ſee his Wife, and that he was often with his own Siſter: And this Deponent further ſaith, That to the beſt of her knowledge ſhe never ſaw any Rabbits brought to her the ſaid *Mary Toſt* to eat whilſt ſhe was at *Guildford*, nor any dreſs'd in the Houſe, and verily believes there was not any dreſs'd for or eat by her the ſaid *Mary Toſt* during that Time: And further ſaith, That ſhe, this Deponent herſelf, ſaw the ſaid *Mary Toſt* delivered of Seven Rabbits of different Colours whilſt ſhe was at *Guildford*, all which came from

from her in ſeveral pieces, and not whole: And that this Deponent heard that a black one came from her at *Godalming*. And this Deponent further ſaith, That as often as the ſaid Huſband came to *Guildford*, this Deponent never ſaw him dejected, or any ways concerned for his Wife's Misfortune: And alſo ſaith, That during her attending the ſaid *Mary Toft*, ſhe never heard her or her Husband deſire that any Miniſter might be ſent for to pray by her: And this Deponent further ſaith, That ſhe does not know that the ſaid *Mary Toft* was reſtrained from any Diet at any time whilſt ſhe tended her; And that the ſaid *Mary Toft* generally fed on

ſalt Beef, and drank ſometimes ſtrong Beer, and ſometimes ſmall, and ſometimes Wine: And this Deponent alſo ſaith, That during all the ſaid time ſhe never heard Mr. *John Howard* preſcribe any particular Diet for her the ſaid *Mary Toſt*; but hath heard the ſaid Mr. *Howard* tell the People that came to ſee her the ſaid *Mary Toſt*, that he did not debar her of eating any thing. And this Deponent further ſaith, That about nine a-clock this Morning Mr. *Howard*'s Apprentice, one *Mellerſh*, came to the Gate of *Munſted Farm* in the Pariſh of *Godalming*, and enquired for this Deponent, and there told her that he had heard from his Maſter

ſter and her Dame, and that the Rabbit was alive Yeſterday, and that he had heard my Lord *Onſlow* was to ſend for her, and he would have her ſtand by the Truth. To which this Deponent ſaid, ſhe would, if the King was to ſend for her, and that ſhe would not do an ill thing for a Lap-full of Guineas.

The Mark of
Mary X *Coſten.*

Jur' apud Clandon in Com' Surr' quarto die Decembris Anno Dom' 1726. coram

Onſlow.

And

And this Deponent further ſaith, That to the beſt of her remembrance, ſhe never ſaw the ſaid *Mary Toſt* deliver'd of any Guts belonging to the ſeven Rabbits ſhe ſaw her deliver'd of as above.

The Mark of
Mary X *Coſten.*

FINIS.

Since the taking of theſe Depoſitions Mr. St. Andre *has thought fit to publiſh the following Advertiſement in the* Daily Journal *of* Dec. 9. 1726.

HAving contributed, in ſome meaſure, to the Belief of an Impoſtor, in a Narrative lately publiſhed by me, of an extraordinary Delivery of *Rabbits*, performed by Mr. *Howard*, Surgeon, of *Guildford*; and having been ſince inſtrumental in diſcovering the ſame; ſo that I am now thoroughly convinc'd it is a moſt abominable Fraud: I think myſelf obliged, in ſtrict regard to Truth, to acquaint the Publick thereof; and that I intend, in a ſhort time, to publiſh a full Account of the Diſcovery, with ſome Conſiderations on the extraordinary Circumſtances of this Caſe, which miſled me in my Apprehenſions thereof; and which as I hope they will, in ſome meaſure, excuſe the Miſtakes made by myſelf, and others, who have viſited the Woman concerned therein, will alſo be acceptable to the World, in ſeparating the Innocent from thoſe who have been guilty Actors of this Fraud.

December 8. 1726.

St. ANDRE.